XX. *The Deſcription of a* Fiſh, *ſhewed to the* Royal Society *by Mr.* Ralph Bigland, *on* March 22, 1749-50: *Drawn up by* C. Mortimer, *M. D. Secret. R. S.*

Read July 5, 1750. THIS Fiſh is ſmooth-skinn'd, has no Scales, nor Teeth. It has one erect Fin on its Back, which ariſes below its Neck, and runs within a little of its Tail. On each Side about the Middle, between its Back and Belly, behind the Gills is a Fin: From the Bottom and Middle of its Belly, a little forward of the Vent, ariſe a Pair of Fins: From behind the Vent runs one Fin, within a little of the Tail: The Tail-Fin is large and forked. Its Eyes are large; the *Irides* are ſcarlet, encompaſſed with a Circle of a gold Colour verged with ſcarlet. Its Noſtrils are placed above its Eyes. The Back, and upper Part of the Body quite to the Tail, was of a dark blue, or violet Colour; theſe, and the Sides of the Body, which were of a bright green, were all ſpeckled with oblong white Spots; the Chaps were of a pale red; the Noſe, Gills, and Belly, were of a ſilver Colour; and all the Fins of a bright ſcarlet.

It was 3 Feet 7 Inches long, and 3 Feet 10 Inches round in the thickeſt Part. It weighed 82 Pounds. Its Mouth is ſmall; its Tongue was thick, almoſt like a human Tongue in Shape, but rough, and thick-ſet with Beards or Prickles, which pointed backwards; ſo that any thing might eaſily paſs down, but could not eaſily ſlip back again; therefore theſe might ſerve inſtead of Teeth for retaining its Prey or Food. Its Gills reſemble thoſe of a Salmon. Its Body grows very

very taper towards the Tail; and, from being compreſſed to 10 Inches Thickneſs, becomes near the Tail almoſt round, and about 3 Inches thick. The whole Shape of this Fiſh much reſembles the Sea-bream; but it differs in Size, being much larger, and in not having Teeth nor Scales. The Fin ſtanding erect on the Back, has ſome *Aculei* next the Neck, and riſe up 8 Inches; but in the Middle diminiſhes to 1 Inch; and near the Tail riſes again to about 3 Inches. The Belly-Fin oppoſite to this ſpreads 3 Inches near the Tail, and diminiſhes towards the Vent. The Tail-Fin is forked, and ſpreads 12 Inches. The Gill-Fins are 9 Inches long, and 3 wide at their Baſis. The 2 Belly-Fins were 11 Inches long, and 3 wide at their Baſis. It ſeems to me to be a new Species of Fiſh, not yet deſcribed by any Author.

The black Prince, and his Couſin, from *Anamaboe* on the Coaſt of *Guinea*, and Mr. *Creighton*, formerly Governor of *Capo Corſo Caſtle*, upon ſeeing this Fiſh immediately knew it, and ſaid it was common on that Coaſt, and is very good to eat. The Natives call it *Opah*, and the *Engliſh* there call it the *King-fiſh*. I ſhall therefore retain the *Guinea* Name, with theſe Characteriſtics; OPAH Guinienſium *eſt piſcis oſſeus, non ſquammoſus, edentulus; habens unicam in dorſo pinnam anteriùs aculeatam, pone branchias par pinnarum, in medio ventre par pinnarum, ad poſticam ventris partem unicam pinnam, caudam forcipatam.*

Mr. *Bigland* ſays, that, upon opening of it, all its Bowels would have gone into a Quart-Mug; that the Fleſh of the fore Part was firm, and look'd like Beef, and the hinder Part like fine Veal; that the Bones were like thoſe of Quadrupeds; particularly the

the Shoulder-blades, which reſembled thoſe of Sheep. [See an Article in the *Scots Magazine* for *October* 1748. printed at *Edinburgh* in 8*vo.*] In a Letter to me, he adds, that probably this was a [Pelagian or] Ocean Fiſh, wandring by chance into the Frith of *Forth*; and, by the Tide ebbing, being left upon a conſiderable Shoal, or flat Sand, near *Leith*, was diſcover'd from Land in a State of Diſtreſs; whereupon ſome Fiſhermen plunged into the Sea, and with a Net ſurrounded it, and brought it to Shore.

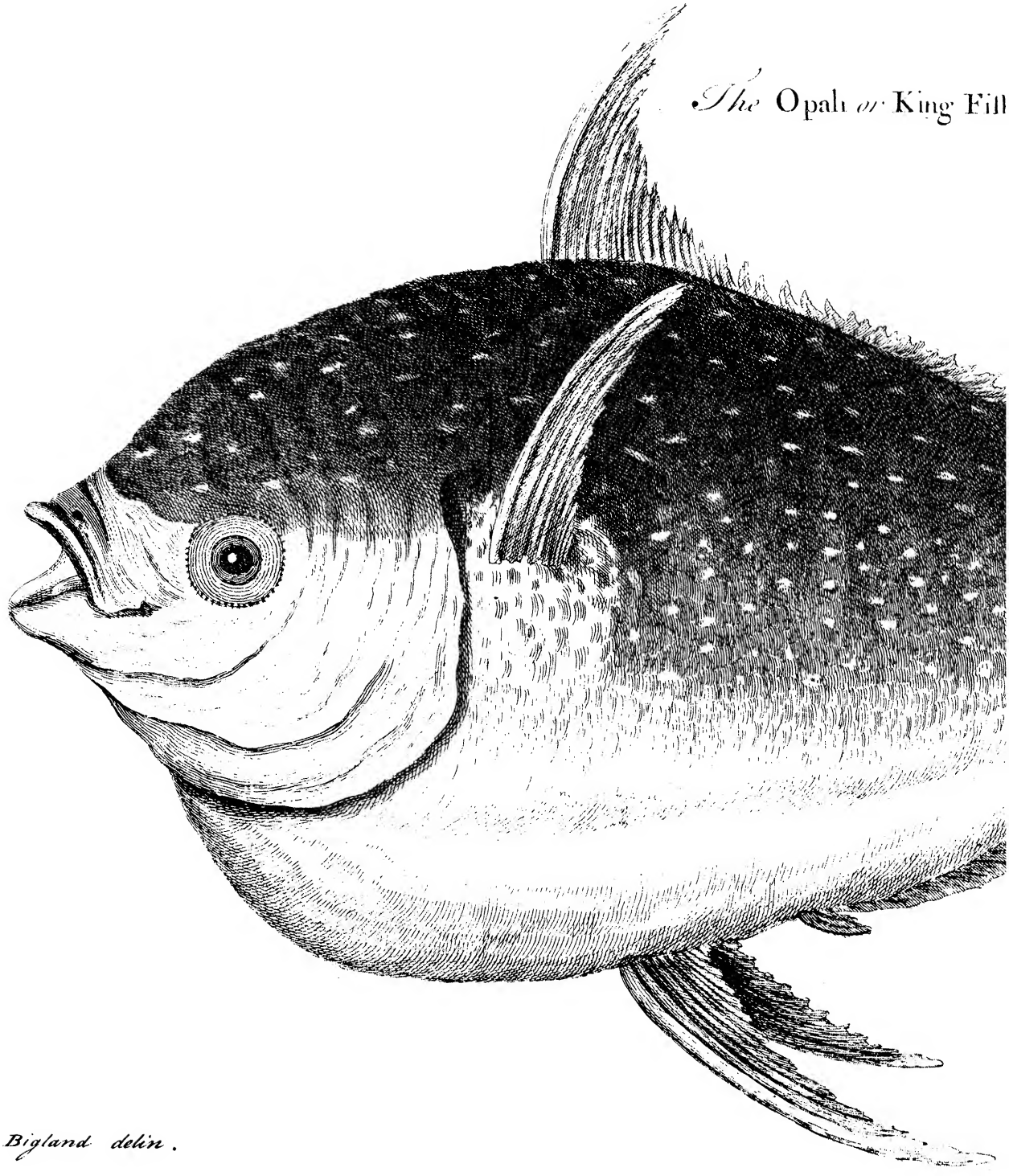
XXI. *A Letter from* John Burton *M. D. to* C. Mortimer *M. D. & Secr. R. S. concerning the* Extirpation *of an* Excreſcence *from the* Womb.

SIR,

Read July 5. 1750. I HAVE at laſt got a Drawing of an Excreſcence * growing from the Inſide of the *Os Tincæ* on the right Side; which I herewith ſend you, (ſee TAB. I. *Fig.* 6.) along with as full and perfect an Account of the Caſe as I can.

The Wife of one *Chapman*, a Whiteſmith, at *Selby*, ten Miles off, upwards of ſeven Years ago lay in of her laſt Child, and had a tolerable eaſy Labour: Soon after which, ſhe had what ſhe called the *Fluor albus*, that continued ever ſince, and increaſed upon her; inſomuch that ſhe ſays, ſhe has ſometimes

* It is exactly the Dimenſions of the Original, which weighed 5 Ounces and a half. That Part below the pricked Line appeared out of the *Vagina*; that above reach'd from the *Labia* to the *Os Uteri*.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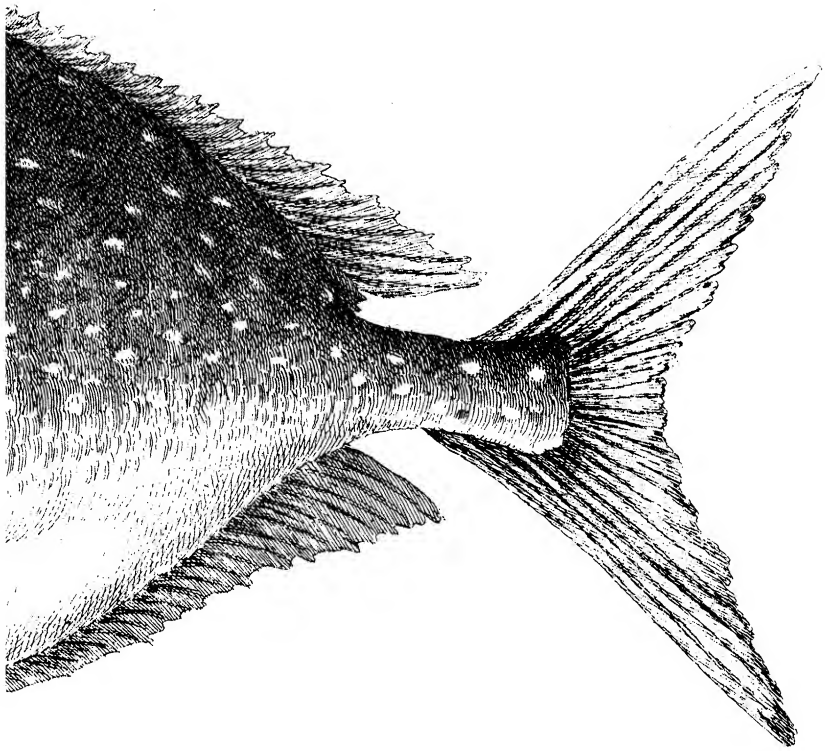
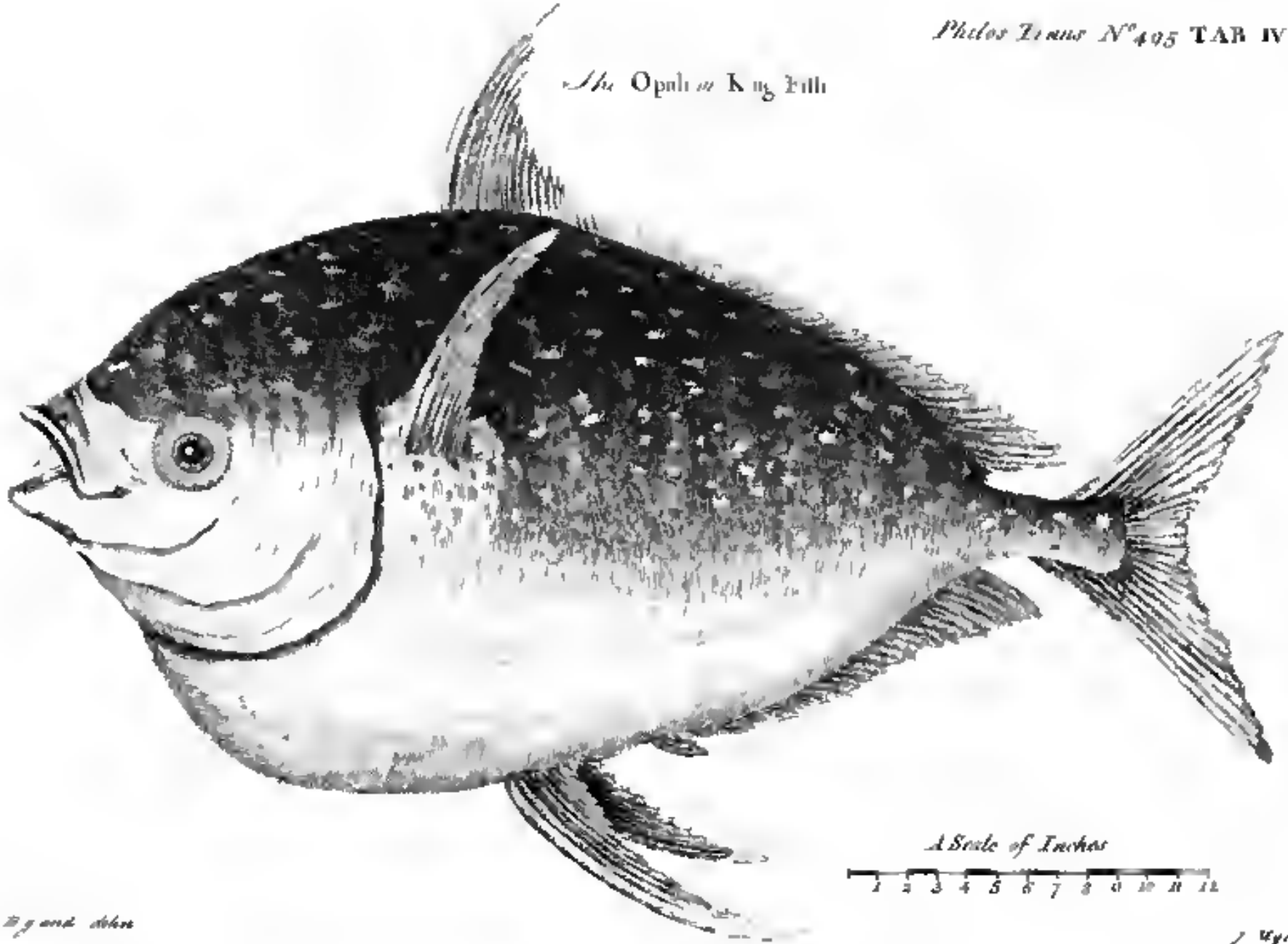


A Scale of Inches.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

J. Mynde Sc.

The Opah or King Fish



A Scale of Inches

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